

LOOKING AT JESUS - AGAIN

Discovering His Conversations in the Gospel by Mark

SCHEDULE – Winter 2023 -

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| Lesson 1 | WHO IS THIS MAN NAMED JESUS? | Mark 1 and 2: 1 - 22 |
| Lesson 2 | BIG CROWDS and STRONG WORDS | Mark 2: 23 – Mark 3: 34 |
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| Lesson 4 | MIRACLES and MULTITUDES | Mark 5 and 6 |
| Lesson 5 | REBUKES, RESPONSES & MIRACLES | Mark 7 and 8: 1 - 33 |
| Lesson 6 | LIFE LESSONS | Mark 8: 34 – Mark 9:50 |
| Lesson 7 | WHEN YOU FOLLOW JESUS | Mark 10 |
| Lesson 8 | THE OPPOSITION ESCALATES | Mark 11 – Mark 12: 12 |
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STUDY TIME SUGGESTIONS for this series –

Do you have a quiet place where your "appointment with God" will not be interrupted?

Do you have your Bible, paper and pen, along with your study guide ready?

As you prepare to study, why not quiet your mind and heart before God? This time might include thanksgiving, confession, repentance, and submission to the Holy Spirit as your teacher.

INFORMATION – Mark is an action-packed book picturing some of the events in Jesus' life during the 3 years of His public ministry. It will help you to follow the drama and sequence if you will make a list of each of the stories as you go along. You may want to highlight the miracles and/or the opposition by using another color pen.

OBSERVATION – Mark records conversation after conversation. Sometimes Jesus initiated it and often someone else came to Him with a question or a request. Think about Jesus' responses and how He treated the crowds, His disciples, the opposition and each individual.

MEDITATION - Now that you have the facts in mind, it is time to consider the meaning and impact of these events. Just as Jesus was endeavoring to help the people in that first century get to know Him, to trust Him, and to understand His identity, authority, and His mission, He wants you to grasp these truths also. What are your own observations and insights?

INVITATION - Studying the Word of God is always more than an intellectual exercise. Jesus longs for a personal relationship with you and with me. It is the reason He came to this earth as the Son of Man – "to seek and to save those who are lost". The value of each lesson will become apparent to you as you allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He is the One who will open up your heart and mind and teach you how to live and experience the abundant life which Jesus promised to all those who will trust in Him.

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STUDY INTRO – LOOKING AT THE BIG PICTURE

**“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to give His life as a ransom for many.”** Mark 10: 45

Have you ever asked yourself why there are 4 different books in the New Testament which present the life story of Jesus? One good reason is that each one is written for a different audience and certainly with a unique purpose. The Gospel written by Mark was for the Romans who were living under serious persecution. While Mark was not one of the Jesus’ original 12 apostles, he certainly had seen Jesus in his early years and then he traveled extensively with Peter and spent time with Barnabas and Saul, as well. His Gospel is an action filled account, giving us a glimpse into the life of Christ as He revealed His identity as the Son of Man who came to accomplish all His Father had sent Him to do.

Information – The GOSPEL of MARK

This is your opportunity to read the entire Gospel of Mark so you can get a feel for his style of writing and what he is most interested in telling his readers about Jesus. You may want to read it more than once or listen to it audibly. You can read it in about 80 - 90 minutes at one sitting, or in smaller increments as your personal schedule allows.

Observation –

As you read the book notice the many conversation Jesus has, as well as the accounts of more miracles than in any other book. Some of his favorite words are “immediately, at once, quickly, and just then.” Take note of the things which make an initial impression on you. The simplest outline of the book is as follows:

Mark 1 – 10 - Jesus Serves Others

Mark 11 – 16 – Jesus Sacrifices Himself

Meditation –

1. Why do you think Mark recorded so many miracles that Jesus performed?
2. If you were to give a short “book report” to your friends, how would you describe this account of Jesus’ ministry and mission so others would be inspired to read it?
3. What conversations or events made the biggest impression on you? Why?

Invitation –

As you think about the story you have just read, how would you describe your relationship to Jesus? What other things would you like to know about Him? What are some of the questions He might want to ask you at this point in your life? What would He want you to think about as you read this Gospel week by week?

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LESSON 1 – WHO IS THIS MAN NAMED JESUS?

**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
At once they left their nets and followed Him.** Mark 1: 17 – 18

When Jesus began His public ministry, he needed to establish His identity and His authority. We know about His birth and the early years of His life through the books written by Matthew and Luke. When we come to the Gospel or Good News written by Mark, we are presented immediately, following the introductory verses, with Jesus as He ministered to people – serving, healing, performing miracles, and preparing His followers for the reality of His sacrificial death. In a remarkable way, Mark recorded for his readers not only what Jesus had to say and what he did but many of his emotions. He truly was fully divine and totally human – the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Information – Mark 1 and 2: 1 - 22

1. Mark 1: 1 – 13 - Make a list of the events described in these introductory verses.
What are the credentials with which Jesus began His ministry?
2. Mark 1: 14 – 2: 22 – What are the major events in these 2 chapters?
You might want to start 2 lists – one called “Jesus’ Miracles” and the other “Jesus’ Ministry”.

Observation – As you study the conversations Jesus had you will want to think about the following:

- Look at the whole event, noticing to whom he is speaking and the setting. Who initiated the interaction?
- What was the mood of those involved? What was accomplished?
- Do you think this event helped to establish Jesus’ identity, authority, ministry?

1. Conversation #1 - Mark 1: 14 - 20
2. Conversation #2 - Mark 1: 21 – 28
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 1: 40 - 45
4. Conversation #4 - Mark 2: 1 – 12
5. Conversation #5 - Mark 2: 13 – 17
6. Conversation #6 - Mark 2: 18 – 22

Meditation –

1. We learn what Jesus’ message or mission was through Mark’s introduction of His ministry – Mark 1: 14 – 15.
Put it in your own words. What is it all about?
2. What did Jesus ask the fisherman and the tax collector to do? Does their response surprise you or not?
3. Why do you think Jesus needed to go by himself to pray? (Verses 1: 35 -39)
4. Jesus’ conclusion, as He talks about legalism with the Pharisees, is a clear statement about who He really is. What are the 2 titles He gives Himself and what is He saying through them? (2:28)

Invitation – Take some time to let the One, who is always compassionate, touch you. What are the main impressions you have gained about this man called Jesus from these stories? Give Him your thanks and adoration. Is He calling to you? Listen!

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LESSON 2 – BIG CROWDS and STRONG WORDS

“Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother”.

Mark 3: 35

Why do you think the religious leaders were so vehemently opposed to Jesus? Was it His miracles? His teachings? The followers He began to attract? Was He a threat to them and to their traditions? It’s interesting to think about the various groups of people and individuals with whom Jesus interacts. With which group would you have been identified if you had been there in those early weeks of Jesus ministry?

Information – Mark 2: 23 – Mark 3: 34

As you read, continue your list of the events which are described, noting how Jesus’ identity and authority are becoming more clearly established.

Observation – As you study the conversations Jesus entered into, you will want to consider the following:

Look at the whole event, noticing the setting, who initiated the interaction and the responses.

What was the mood of those involved? Were there observers? What were the reactions?

Do you think this event helped establish Jesus’ identity or authority? What did Jesus accomplish?

7. Conversation #1 - Mark 2: 23 – 27
8. Conversation #2 - Mark 3: 1 - 6
9. Conversation #3 – Mark 3: 7 – 12
10. Conversation #4 – Mark 3: 20 – 30
11. Conversation #5 – Mark 3: 31 - 34

Meditation

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to pick grain and heal someone on the Sabbath? What was His message?
2. Rather than respond to the attack of the scribes with anger or defensively, but He told them a story, introduced by a question. What effect would this have on the them, his family and any observers? For those who could hear, what did the story teach them?
3. Why do you think Jesus’ family was trying to get His attention? (3: 20 – 21) Do you think His response was a surprise to them? What was He trying to accomplish with this information?
4. Put yourself in the place of the disciples whom Jesus had just selected. When Jesus called them, they did not hesitate to follow Him. What have they learned so far about their leader?

Invitation –

As you look back over these stories, what have you learned about Jesus – His personality, His power, His desires?

Even as He did, will you take some time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you as you listen to His voice, speaking gently to you today? Could He be calling you, challenging you, or comforting you?

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LESSON 3 – STORIES and a STORM

“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!” Mark 4: 41

Everyone – from infant to elderly - loves a good story. It captures the attention of the listeners and is often easy to remember. When Jesus told a story, He was doing so in order to reveal truth to the people who were ready to receive it. Those who were opposed to Jesus were unable to “hear it” or to understand the message. Isn’t it wonderful that many of Jesus’ parables are in the Bible for us to read today? Discovering the truth which is contained in them will help us understand what Jesus meant by the “Kingdom of God” or the “Kingdom of Heaven”. How is your hearing?

Information – Mark 4

Why do you think Jesus taught the crowds through using parables?

You may want to make a list of Jesus’ parables as you discover them, noting the occasion and the content.

Observation – As you prayerfully consider the parables Jesus told to the crowds and His conversations with His disciples, ask God to give you “ears to hear and eyes to see”. Do you agree He wants His followers to understand more about the Kingdom of God? How did these events help Jesus establish His identity, His authority or His mission?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 4: 1 - 9
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 4: 10 – 20
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 4: 21 – 33 (3 Parables about the Kingdom of God)
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4. Conversation #4 – Mark 4: 35 - 41

Meditation

1. Jesus explained to the disciples and His close followers why He would often be using parables when He was teaching. (Mark 4: 9 – 12) What do you think the positive effects might have been? Would there have been some negative results?
2. The Parable of the Soil is one of the few Jesus actually explained. As you read this explanation, what principles can you observe which might help you understand other parables?
3. Using these principles, try to summarize the point of the other 3 parables in Mark 4.
4. The disciples called him “Teacher” – Mark 4:38 – but the miracle they were about to experience on the tumultuous Sea of Galilee would have a major impact on them. What do you think the disciples learned on their “boat trip with Jesus”?
5. What new insights do you think the disciples now have as they walk and talk with Jesus week after week?

Invitation –

As you look back over these stories, what have you learned about Jesus – His personality, His power, His desires?

Even as He did, will you take some time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you as you listen to His voice, speaking gently to you today? Could He be calling to you, challenging you, or comforting you?

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LESSON 4 – MIRACLES and MULTITUDES

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” - Mark 6: 31

“After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray.” - Mark 6: 46

The crowds, the pressure of people, the opposition, question after question, miracles, misunderstanding, needs, teaching, and criticism. How could Jesus, the Son of Man, keep on going week after week? What kind of example was He setting for the apostles who would be responsible to carry on when He was gone? Hidden in between the events of the day are clues about Jesus' priorities. He knew where to find strength and renewal. He knew who was setting His agenda and what His mission was. He kept His focus in one direction. What an example!

Information – Mark 5 and 6 - Five amazing miracles and some challenges for His disciples

How's your list of the events that are described in each chapter coming? You might want to highlight them on your list.

Observation – As you study the conversations Jesus had, you will want to consider the following:

- Who was talking? Who was listening? What was the setting? Was there a miracle involved?
- How did these events affect Jesus' reputation? What were His disciples learning?
- Did these events help establish Jesus' identity or authority? How?
- What did He want the individual, His disciples, His opponents and/or the crowd to learn?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 5: 1 - 20
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 5: 21 – 24 and 35 - 43
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 5: 25 - 34
4. Conversation #4 - Mark 6: 1 - 3
5. Conversation #5 - Mark 6: 6 – 13
6. Conversation #6 – Mark 6: 30 – 42
7. Conversation #7 – Mark 6: 43 - 56

Meditation

1. Why do you think the people were so afraid after Jesus healed the demon-possessed man? How do you think His testimony and life would impact the people He met at home?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal people one person at a time? He seemed to always be aware of the individual person and his/her specific desires and attitudes, didn't He? Why?
3. After a miracle of healing Jesus tells one person to go home and tell everyone and yet He tells Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, to keep His daughter's "resurrection" to himself? What could some of the reasons be for the difference?
4. Whenever there is a personal description of Jesus, it is good to look at it carefully – Mark 6: 31 and 46. Compassion – what does it mean? What does the image of a shepherd bring to your mind?

Bonus - After the "big picnic", we do not know how the disciples or the crowd responded. Try to write an editorial or two, giving various impressions of the afternoon, for the local newspaper

Invitation –

As you look back over these stories, what have you learned about Jesus – His personality, His power, His desires?

Even as He did, will you take some time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you as you listen to His voice, speaking gently to you today? Could He be calling you, challenging you, or comforting you?

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LESSON 5 – REBUKES and RESPONSES and MORE MIRACLES

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

Mark 8: 34

It must have been a huge challenge! Taking twelve very different men and helping them to grasp not only who He was but to understand why He came to live among them. Don't you sometimes wonder what it was about Jesus that made them leave home to travel with Him? Once they had been with Him for a few months and had experienced some miracles, listened to His teaching, watched His reactions and felt His passion and compassion, it would seem they would begin to understand. So, at just the right time, Jesus asks them the eternally important question, "Who do YOU think that I am?" It's still the bottom-line question that each of us must answer, isn't it?

Information – Mark 7 and 8: 1 - 33 – As you read these vignettes, think about what Jesus is trying to accomplish.

Observation – You will want to notice:

- What are the circumstances of each story? Who are the people and why is Jesus talking to them?
- Is there a response or reaction from the person or group? Did He need/want one?
- How did this event help establish Jesus' identity or authority or mission or all 3?
- What did Jesus want them to understand about Him and about themselves?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 7: 1 - 13
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 7: 14 - 23
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 7: 24 - 30
4. Conversation #4 – Mark 7: 31 - 37
5. Conversation #5 – Mark 8: 1 - 10
6. Conversation #6 – Mark 8: 11 – 13
7. Conversation #7 – Mark 8: 14 – 21
8. Conversation #8 – Mark 8: 22 – 26
9. Conversation #9 – Mark 8: 27 – 33

Meditation

1. As you review the "training sessions" in chapters 7 & 8 that Jesus had with His disciples, what are the new insights and instructions they received?
2. Do you identify with Peter's actions in any way? (Mark 8: 27 – 33)
3. Do you think there is a turning point as they consider who Jesus really is? Why or why not?
4. What motivated Jesus to continue to perform amazing miracles? Look for some clues in the stories.

Invitation –

As you look back over these stories, what have you learned about Jesus – His identity, His power, His desires?

Even as He did, will you take some time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you as you listen to His voice, speaking gently to you today? Is there some truth about Him or about you He would like you to consider?

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LESSON 6 – LIFE LESSONS

Jesus said, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.' Mark 9:23
The father of the child cried out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" Mark 9: 24

Now that the identity and authority of Jesus have been clearly proclaimed and observed, He is beginning to teach more clearly and often about His mission and future. It's going to take some time for the disciples to grasp the reality of what He is saying to them but the information will give them a good foundation from which to build when that time comes. It's a great motivation for Bible study today when you realize the truth which is penetrating your mind and heart may not be applicable to your situation at the present time, but those challenges and promises will be there for you to claim when the need in your life arises. So . . . keep on listening and learning.

Information – Mark 8: 34 – 9:50 –

How are your lists of events, parables and miracles coming along? Take time to make sure you are aware of them.

Observation – As you ponder the conversations Jesus initiated as well as the other ones, it would be helpful to consider:

- To whom did Jesus talk? Did He respond to their question or ask a question?
- In His conversations with His disciples, what is He emphasizing?
- How did these events/dialogues help establish Jesus' identity, authority, or mission?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 8: 34 – 9:1
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 9: 2 - 13
Note: "Elijah" is a reference to John the Baptist – Malachi 4: 5 – 6
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 9: 14 – 27
4. Conversation #4 – Mark 9: 28 - 32
5. Conversation #5 - Mark 9: 32 – 37
6. Conversation #6 – Mark 9: 38 -50

Meditation –

1. As Jesus talked about the denial of self and taking up the cross and following Him, what do you suppose the disciples could really grasp? Why would Jesus tell them these things at this time?
2. In some ways Jesus is giving His disciples a "leadership training course". What is He currently teaching them about His future and about their attitudes, power, and relationships?
3. Have you noticed how often Jesus is aware of the needs of children? Take time to review your list. In what ways is His life consistent with His words about the worth and importance of children?
4. It is one thing to copy another person's external behavior – to do what they do, but to learn to think as they think is very challenging. How did Jesus help them change their attitudes and motivation?

Invitation – As you look back over these stories, what did you learn about Jesus this week?

Just as Jesus did, will you take some time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you about His desires for you? What would He like you to understand, to change, or to believe?

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LESSON 7 – WHEN YOU FOLLOW JESUS

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” Mark 10:43

Have you ever felt like you were getting some confusing messages from a trusted friend? It makes you try to listen to every word, to watch every emotion, and to try to detect what their words really mean. It seems like the disciples must have been puzzled by the things Jesus was telling them. They must have been doing their very best to understand, to get clarification and to keep on believing. Things will get a great deal more confusing before the fog will lift, but it will be worth it all. It always is when we trust Jesus!

Information – Mark 10 – Interesting events and another miracle!

Observation –

- As you think about the interaction Jesus had with a variety of people, what are you observing?
- How does He treat people? How does He respond? How do you see His humanity and yet His deity expressed?
- Did the events in this chapter help to establish Jesus' identity, authority, or mission? How?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 10: 1 – 9
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 10: 10 - 12
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 10: 13 – 16
4. Conversation #4 – Mark 10: 17 – 31
5. Conversation #5 – Mark 10: 32 – 45
6. Conversation #6 – Mark 10: 46 – 52

Meditation

1. The Pharisees seem to be looking for opportunities to test Jesus, to ask Him tricky questions, to discredit Him. Why are they so intent on doing this? What do you think the disciples are observing as they hear His responses.
2. What is Jesus really teaching about wealth and entering His kingdom?
2. James and John asked Jesus a very sincere question. Jesus could have reprimanded them for their attitude and selfishness. Instead, how does he treat them? What was the lesson they learned from The One who came to serve and to give His life for them and for us?
4. Many people choose Mark 10: 45 as the theme verse for this Gospel. Is it a good choice? Why?

Invitation – As you look back over these stories, what did you learn about Jesus this week?

Will you take some time to quietly consider your answer to the question Jesus asked His disciples, “What do you want me to do for you?” Talk it over with One who is lovingly looking at you and waiting to hear your response.

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LESSON 8 – THE OPPOSITION ESCALATES

And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'THE LORD has need of it.' Mark 11: 3

Isn't it great? The disciples actually did just what Jesus told them to do. And, guess what? They experienced another miracle. They followed His directions, even though it must have seemed somewhat odd and the next thing they knew, they had a colt for Jesus. It must have been a great Sunday – a parade with the crowds cheering, “Hosanna”, which means “Save we pray”. (Psalm 113, 118, and 148.) Just like in our real life, Monday morning was a whole different scene. The leaders of the temple were not cheering. They were scheming. Their position and their authority were at stake and they were not ready to give Jesus a chance. Jesus knew it and He is not going to miss an opportunity to face His opponents or teach His friends.

Information – Mark 11 - Mark 12: 12 – A parade, a parable and opposition

Observation - As you think about these questions, consider the following:

- What are the circumstances and the reasons that Jesus asked this particular question?
 - Can you re-write the question in your own words?
 - What was the response from the person? From the observers, if any?
 - How did this question impact people?
1. Conversation #1 – Mark 11: 1 – 11 (Matt. 21: 1 – 11, Luke 19: 28 – 44, John 12: 12 – 19)
 2. Conversation #2 – Mark 11: 12 – 14
 3. Conversation #3 – Mark 11: 15 – 19
 4. Conversation #4 – Mark 11: 20 – 26
 5. Conversation #5 – Mark 11: 27 – 33
 6. Conversation #6 – Mark 12: 1 - 12

Meditation

1. The other Gospels add some interesting details to that Sunday morning event as Jesus entered Jerusalem for the final days before the crucifixion. How did this time impact the disciples and those who were following Him?
2. Why do you think the money changers were allowed to work in the temple courts?
Isaiah 56: 7
Jeremiah 7: 9 - 12
3. Authority – Jesus has been making it clear in every event and speech He has made. Why did the scribes and Pharisees miss it so completely?
4. Two great communication techniques – answering a question with a question and telling a story to illustrate truth. In what ways do you admire how Jesus responded to His enemies?

Invitation –

As you look back over the stories in this lesson, what did you learn about Jesus this week?

Will you quietly wait and listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to you? Is there something for you to consider about your own faith/trust in the Lord or the need to forgive or the importance of prayer? What encourages you today?

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LESSON 9 – TRICKS and TRAPS

“Jesus replied, ‘Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scripture and you don’t know the power of God.’”

Mark 12: 24

It must have been very impressive to the disciples as they watched Jesus interact with crowds of people wherever He went - both the antagonists as they came to harass Him and those who came to listen to Him. He could have walked right by the individuals who had specific questions, but He never did. He could have ignored the insignificant widow with her gift, but He never did. It’s so clear – He came to serve and not to be served, and He came to fulfill what His Father had sent Him to do. What impression does this make on you?

Information – Mark 12: 13 – 44 – More Questions and a Lesson

Observation – It seems like the religious & political leaders are getting desperate to trap Jesus in one way or another.

- Who are these different leaders - Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, elders and teachers of the law?
- What do you notice about Jesus’ responses to them? How would you describe his answers?
- As you think about Jesus’ attitude toward these Jewish leaders and the crowd, how would you describe it?

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 12: 13 - 17

2. Conversation #2 – Mark 12: 18 - 27

3. Conversation #3 – Mark 12: 28 – 34

4. Conversation #4 – Mark 12: 35 – 37

5. Conversation #5 – Mark 12: 38 - 40

6. Conversation #6 – Mark 12: 41 - 44

Meditation

1. All of these religious leaders seem to agree on one thing. What is it? Why is their antagonism increasing? What are the errors Jesus finds with these men?
2. In what ways is Jesus continuing to establish His identity, His authority, and His mission? What else do you think He is accomplishing during His final days in Jerusalem?
3. Compare Jesus’ response to the question of the scribe (Mark 12: 28 – 34) with His other responses. Why did He encourage rather than rebuke Him?
4. In the economy of “the kingdom of heaven”, the widow gave more than the rich. What does Jesus mean?
Mark 12: 41 – 44 (Luke 21: 1 – 4)

Invitation – What did you learn about Jesus this week? What “amazes” you about His actions and interactions?

Even as Jesus did, will you take time to quietly consider what He might want to be saying to you through these stories and events. Is He reminding you of any Kingdom values or ways of looking at life? What are your questions?

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LESSON 10 – A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Mark 13: 31

Have you ever thought about what the temple in Jerusalem looked like? It must have been an amazing structure. It was renovated by Herod the Great in 20 B.C. and completed by his descendants in the decades to follow. The 20-acre site was the most prominent landscape in all Jerusalem. The architecture was impressive with enormous white marble stones, gold ornamentation, walkways, and courtyards. There was no other place like it in the entire world. It must have seemed permanent and stable to Jesus’ disciples, but once again Jesus surprises them with a question and some very puzzling but important information.

Information – Mark 13 – One question introducing a long speech – “The Olivet Discourse”.

Observation –It is late in the day on Tuesday. Jesus knows there is very little time left before His betrayal and crucifixion. There are still some very crucial things He must tell His dear disciples so they will be prepared for what is ahead of them. Put yourself in their place as you sit with Jesus on the Mount of Olives and look out at the temple and the city.

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 13: 1 – 2
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 13: 3 - 37

Meditation – As you read Mark 13, focus on the information you can understand and do not be distracted by the information which seems puzzling or confusing.

1. What are the topics Jesus wanted His disciples to consider with Him?
2. Make a list of the clear instructions Jesus gave to His disciples?
3. Jesus referred to some prophecies made by Daniel – Dan. 9:17, 11: 31, 12:11
What period of time do you think he is describing?
4. What did Jesus teach about His second coming? What challenges you? What comforts you?
For more information read – I Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11 and II Peter 3: 8 – 18

Bonus information – Only John gives additional information which must have been so reassuring and comforting to the disciples as the intensity of the opposition grows and the future seems so formidable. How does Jesus help them? John 14 – 17

Invitation

Do you have questions? Do you have concerns? Jesus will be as responsive to you as He was to His disciples. Sometimes the answer will surprise you and sometimes the answer may leave you with more questions, but – you can be sure He is listening to you and He will respond to you in love and tenderness. So – ask Him and then listen – to Him and to His promises to you in His Word. It’s His open invitation to you and to me.

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LESSON 11 – “THE SCRIPTURE MUST BE FULFILLED”

“And Jesus said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’”

Mark 14: 36

What would you have been thinking that night at the home of Simon the leper? How would you have felt when Jesus announced that someone would soon betray Him? If you had been walking with Jesus to the Mount of Olives, what do you think your reaction might have been? Would you have been able to stay awake and pray? Would you have been the “brave one”, like Peter, or fled with the others? And when you heard “the rooster crow”, what would you have done? Real people. Real choices. What can you learn from them?

Information – Mark 14 – It’s Wednesday night and Thursday

What will you learn about Jesus as He goes through His final hours before His crucifixion?

Observation – During His final days with the disciples, Jesus continues to prepare them for His destiny.

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 14: 1 – 2
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 14: 3 – 9
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 14: 12 – 16
4. Conversation #4 – Mark 14: 17 – 26
5. Conversation #5 – Mark 14: 27 – 31
6. Conversation #6 – Mark 14: 32 – 42
7. Conversation #7 – Mark 14: 43 – 52
8. Conversation #8 – Mark 14: 53 – 65
9. Conversation #9 – Mark 14: 66 - 72

Meditation

1. What do you think caused the women in Bethany to show such extravagant love and devotion to Jesus that night?
2. Two suppers – one the traditional Passover for the people of Israel and the second celebrating a new covenant and another miraculous event. What does I Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 add to your understanding of the importance of “the Lord’s Supper”?
3. Jesus retreated to a garden to pray just before His betrayal. Did the disciples understand the depth of His sorrow and distress? As they remembered those hours, what do you think they learned from the experience? Do you think they talked about it the next day, the next week?
4. Where were the other disciples while Peter was in the courtyard? Why were they so timid? Peter failed but what do you admire about him?

Invitation – The old hymn reminds us – “For **me**, it was in the garden, He prayed, ‘Not My will, but Thine.’ He had no tears for His own grief but sweat drops of blood for mine. How marvelous! How wonderful! And my song shall ever be. How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior’s love for me!

What is your response?

He is listening to you.

Listen to Him now!

LOOKING AT JESUS - AGAIN

Discovering His Conversations in the Gospel by Mark

LESSON 12 - WHY DID HE HAVE TO DIE?

"It was the third hour when they crucified Him."

Mark 15: 25

A thousand years before, Psalm 22 was written by David – a profound and prophetic Psalm which pointed clearly to the experience that Jesus would have at His crucifixion. Like David in His darkest hours, Jesus rested in the confidence that God was still "MY God." What made it possible for Jesus to endure the pain, to survive the mockery and shame, and to willingly submit His will to the will of His Father? Your answer to this question will determine your destiny. By the way, what is your answer?

Information – Mark 15 – "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

You might read Matthew 27: 11 – 61 and Luke 23 also.

Observation – It's Friday morning and the Jewish religious and political leaders have cleverly decided to take Jesus to Pilate so that He will have to face the merciless Roman authorities. The drama and hysteria of the crowd totally overwhelms the possibility of a rational decision. The crowd does not represent 100% of the people, however. There are the faithful few who watch, who trust, who demonstrate courage, and who do not lose hope.

1. Conversation #1 – Mark 15: 1 – 15
2. Conversation #2 – Mark 15: 16 – 20
3. Conversation #3 – Mark 15: 21 – 31
4. Conversation #4 – Mark 15: 32 – 41
5. Conversation #5 – Mark 15 – 42 - 47

Meditation

1. This is not a television drama or the story of injustice in the courts, or an ordinary event. It's early in the morning. Feeling the emotion is integral to your understanding of these events.
Describe how you think the following people were feeling at that time.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| The religious & political leaders - | The soldiers - |
| The crowd - | Simon, the Cyrenian - |
| Pilate - | Jesus - |
| Barabbas | |
2. Do you think that the chief priests and other tormentors would have believed if Jesus had responded to their taunting ideas? Why or why not?
3. It's only 9 o'clock in the morning and Jesus has been crucified. The other Gospels tell us some statements that Jesus made just before His death, but Mark focuses only on His question? What does this tell you about the "extent of Jesus' love"?
4. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the reality of Jesus' death was staring into the faces of those who had loved & cared for Him. How do you think they were feeling? To what could they cling?

| |
|---|
| Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James & Salome |
| The women – |
| Joseph of Arimathea |
| The Centurion |
| Anyone else? |

Invitation – All too often we rush on to the "final chapter", to the Good News of the resurrection. Jesus would invite you to linger at the cross, to walk with Mary and the other women to the tomb, to contemplate the promises He had shared with them and to grasp what it meant for Him to die in your place. Linger and listen. What is it He wants you to know and believe?

LOOKING AT JESUS - AGAIN

Discovering His Conversations in the Gospel by Mark

UNBELIEVABLY GOOD NEWS - "HE HAS RISEN!"

Where do you think you would have been on that Sunday morning? How do you think you would have been feeling? What kind of plan would you have been making? Can you begin to imagine the shock and joy the followers of Jesus must have felt when they realized Jesus was really alive?

Information – Mark 16

These are the final events in Mark's Gospel to add to your list!

They are just the introduction to the "rest of the story" which is still being written today.

Observation –

What details do the other Gospel writers add to Mark's account?

Matthew 28: 1 – 10

Luke 24: 1 – 12

John 20: 1 - 20

Meditation –

1. How do the following verses help you to think about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Acts 4: 8 – 12

Acts 10: 34 – 43

Romans 3: 21 – 26

Ephesians 2: 1 – 9

Colossians 1: 15 – 23

Titus 3: 3 – 8

I John 3: 1 – 2

2. What were Jesus' final instructions to His disciples? How are you involved in carrying out these commands today?

Mark 16: 15 and 16

Matthew 28: 19 – 20

Invitation –

This would be a great time to consider Paul's prayer for the Ephesians – Ephesians 3: 15 – 23.

His deep desire was for them to experience God's resurrection power in their own lives.

Will you take time to re-write this prayer and make it your own?